

THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING

Selected scriptures

Introduction

Zephaniah 1:14, 2 Timothy 4:8

I. The Return – 1 Thessalonians 4:16

- A. The Sound of the Lord's Command – John 11:43
- B. The Sound of Michael's Voice
- C. The Sound of the Trumpet

II. The Resurrection – 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16, John 11:11, Acts 7:60, Acts 13:36, 1 Corinthians 15:20, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

III. The Redemption – 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

- 1. Our New Bodies Will Be Incapable of Sickness or Death
- 2. Our New Bodies Will Be Identical to the Body of the Resurrected Jesus – Philippians 3:20-21, John 20:27
- 3. Our New Bodies Will Be Identifiable by All Who Knew Us on Earth – Matthew 8:11
- 4. Our New Bodies Will Be Illuminated in Brilliance – Daniel 12:3, Matthew 13:43
- 5. Our New Bodies Will Be Infinite in Physical Power – 1 Corinthians 15:43, John 20:19
- 6. Our New Bodies Will Be Incredibly Suited for Heaven and Eternity

IV. The Rapture – 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

V. The Reunion – 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. Life has a way of challenging our desires. Describe what it feels like to be hopeless. When have you felt that your faith was smaller than your circumstances? **This is a tough one to start out with, so be prepared for some responses about more minor life events or stories about a friend or relative. Vulnerability is scary, so if someone shares something at a new level of depth or transparency, normalize it and thank them for sharing. If not, it's ok! We only want to stir them up toward a discussion of future hope. Trust that there is enough going on in their hearts even if they don't speak it out loud.**

2. What brought you out of that season? Who was with you during this time? What change did this dark season bring about in your life?

Going Deeper

1. How do the future events described in the Bible reframe your perspective of the world we live in today? **This is a broad-brush question that could also read, "How did this week's sermon impact you?" Pastor Jeremiah described the ultimate future of the world from the Scripture... how did this teaching put things into perspective?**

2. Pastor Jeremiah listed five future events: the Return, the Resurrection, the Redemption, the Rapture, and the Reunion. Which of these encourages your ability to walk in faith through an increasingly difficult world? **Each person walks a different road, and therefore different portions of this teaching offer hope to their specific struggles. For example, the Return of Christ might be a balm more than the others to someone who is discouraged by how godless the world today seems. He ascended, but He didn't just *leave* - He promised to come back.**
3. Read John 16:33. How does this verse offer you a new awareness of peace? If Jesus has overcome the world, what parts of your life can you trust Him with? **He *has* overcome the world. This is not *just* a future event, but a past and present one as well.**
4. Read Hebrews 4:15 and Hebrews 12:2. In this world where “you will have tribulation” (John 16:33), how does it feel to know that Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses? Further, what does it say about His willingness to endure the cross on your behalf? **Jesus endured human hardship in the same way as us...*and more*. But, because His eyes were set on future events, He endured it all. He knows what you're going through, and what is being asked of you. He's been there.**

5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-44. What are the four contrasts between our present body and our future body? Describe how it will feel to have a brand new body.

There's a lot of mystery here, which can seem daunting. If the conversation doesn't take off right away, try and keep it light and fun. Think about running without knee pain, dancing without clumsiness, not being forgetful, better posture, or better hearing. It can be as fun or as serious as the group needs.

Applying the Message

1. What emotions do you experience when you think about the Rapture? **Some look forward to it, some are overwhelmed by the very idea of it. Make space for both.**

2. How does reconnecting with the truth about the Rapture shift your awareness of God's work and presence in your life today? How can you live differently?